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**BOGUS EXPERT IN COMPUTER FORENSICS PLEADS GUILTY  
TO PERJURY CHARGES**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JAMES EARL EDMISTON, 36, of Long Beach, California, pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill in Fresno to two counts of perjury.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Fresno Office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who are prosecuting the case, EDMISTON admitted in a plea agreement that he had been retained by two Fresno criminal defense attorneys to provide computer forensic analysis in several child exploitation prosecutions. As part of his work on those cases, EDMISTON prepared and executed several declarations under penalty of perjury between April 3, 2006, and July 19, 2006. In the declarations he claimed that he had been a computer consultant for 12 years, that he had a master's degree in computer engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and that he had been qualified as an expert witness in computers and their online usage by numerous state and federal courts throughout California. An investigation revealed that EDMISTON did not, in fact, have degrees from the California Institute of Technology, the University of California at Los Angeles, or the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, as he alleged. Court documents show that EDMISTON also concealed his prior criminal record that includes a prison term that he served in the mid-1990s as a result of forgery convictions in the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County.

EDMISTON is scheduled to be sentenced at a hearing on July 13, 2007. The maximum possible punishment for each count to which he pleaded guilty include a prison term of five years, a fine \$250,000, a three-year term of supervised release, and a mandatory penalty assessment of \$100. The actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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